

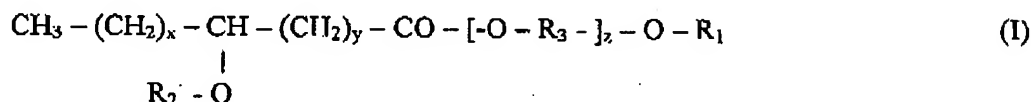
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Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

- 1 (Previously presented) A compound of the formula (I)



wherein:

R₁ is H or C₁ - C₄ alkyl;

R₂ is a C₁₄ to C₂₂ acyl, alkyl or alkenyl group, wherein the acyl, alkyl or alkenyl group is linear or branched, and is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of: halogen, cyano, carboxy, carbamoyl, carbamoyl(C₁-C₄)alkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, mercapto, nitro, amino, (C₁-C₄)alkylamino, phenyl, naphthyl, phenyloxy, naphthyl, (C₁-C₄)alkylthio, and (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfinyl;

R₃ is ethylene, propylene, or branched propylene;

x is 2 - 18;

y is 1 - 17;

the sum of (x + y) is 3 - 19; and

z is 25 - 455.

2. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ is H or C₁ - C₂ alkyl.

3. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein:

x is 2 - 15;

y is 4 - 17;

and the sum of (x + y) is 6 - 19.

4. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein z is 25 - 228.

5. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein:

R_1 is H or $C_1 - C_2$ alkyl;

R_2 is a C_{14} to C_{22} acyl, alkyl or alkenyl group, wherein the acyl, alkyl or alkenyl group is linear or branched, and is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of: halogen, cyano, carboxy, carbamoyl, carbamoyl($C_1 - C_4$)alkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, mercapto, nitro, amino, ($C_1 - C_4$)alkylamino, phenyl, naphthyl, phenyloxy, naphthyloxy, ($C_1 - C_4$)alkylthio, and ($C_1 - C_4$)alkylsulfinyl;

R_3 is ethylene, propylene or branched propylene;

x is 2 -15;

y is 4 -17;

the sum of (x + y) is 6 - 19; and

z is 25 - 228.

6 (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is H.

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8 (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein:

x is 2 -12;

y is 7 -17;

and the sum of (x + y) is 9 -19.

9. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein z is 25 - 57.

10. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 5, wherein:

R_1 is H or $C_1 - C_2$ alkyl;

R_2 is a C_{14} to C_{22} acyl, alkyl or alkenyl group, wherein the acyl, alkyl or alkenyl group is linear or branched, and is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of: halogen, cyano, carboxy, carbamoyl, carbamoyl($C_1 - C_4$)alkyl,

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fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, mercapto, nitro, amino, (C₁-C₄)alkylamino, phenyl, naphthyl, phenyloxy, naphthyloxy, (C₁-C₄)alkylthio, and (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfinyl;

R₃ is ethylene, propylene or branched propylene;

x is 2 -12;

y is 7 -17;

the sum of (x + y) is 9 - 19, and

z is 25 - 57.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ is methyl.

14. (Previously presented) A formulation comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a compound requiring solubilization.

15. (Previously presented) The formulation according to claim 14, wherein the compound requiring solubilization has a solubility of less than 33 mg/ml in water.

16. (Previously presented) The formulation according to claim 14, wherein the compound requiring solubilization is a pharmaceutically active compound.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)